

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for signaling several items of information relevant for operating a motor vehicle having a drive unit, comprising:

representing different items of information by unambiguous haptic signals at different positions of a control element of the vehicle;

forming the different items of information by different fuel consumption values;

respectively representing the different fuel consumption values by a characteristic of one of the haptic signals on the control element having a maximum at the associated position of the control element; and

using a specific fuel usage to determine, using a characteristics function, a consumption per unit distance value from a resulting setpoint value for an output variable of the drive unit and a current engine speed; and

ascertaining the one of the haptic signals as a function of $[[a]]$ consumption per unit of distance using an additional characteristics function.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the haptic signals have a maximum.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the control element includes an accelerator pedal.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the characteristic of the one of the haptic signals includes a saw-tooth-shaped characteristic.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, further comprising:

specifying at least one of the fuel consumption values using an input unit.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 9, further comprising:
forming the one of the haptic signals by a restoring a force acting on the control element.
15. (Currently Amended) A device for signaling several items of information relevant for operating a motor vehicle, having a drive unit, comprising:
an arrangement for representing different items of information by unambiguous haptic signals at different positions of a control element of the vehicle;
an arrangement for forming the different items of information by different fuel consumption values;
an arrangement for respectively representing the different fuel consumption values by a characteristic of one of the haptic signals on the control element having a maximum at the associated position of the control element; ~~and~~
an arrangement for determining a specific fuel usage from a setpoint value for an output variable of the drive unit and a current engine speed using a characteristics function, and for determining a consumption per unit distance from the specific fuel usage; and
an arrangement for recalculating the specific fuel usage into a consumption per unit distance from an arrangement including a characteristics function and for ascertaining the one of the haptic signal as a function of a consumption per unit of distance.
16. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein:
the haptic signals have a maximum.
17. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein:
the control element includes an accelerator pedal.
18. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein:
the characteristic of the one of the haptic signals includes a saw-tooth-shaped characteristic.